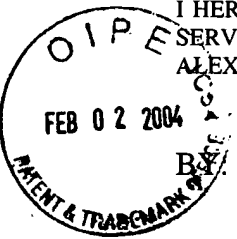


I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450, ON THE DATE INDICATED BELOW.



Sheryl Neumann

Date: *January 30, 2004*

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Patent Application of:
Mark CHAMPION

Conf. No.: 2873

Appln. No.: 10/658,817

Filing Date: September 8, 2003

Title: KNOT TYING DEVICE

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Group Art Unit: 3643

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Attorney Docket No.: 9764-18US (12767/GW)

SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Simultaneously with the filing of the above-identified application with which this Preliminary Amendment is being filed, and prior to the calculation of the filing fee, Applicant submits herewith a Substitute Specification and claims.